

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 H-02 NSC-05  
NSCE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SCSE-00 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 FBIE-00  
/064 W

-----122237Z 025121 /66

O 122200Z FEB 77 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0781

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENNA 1148

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SEIZURE US CORRESPONDENT

1. A MAN WHO SAID HE WAS AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES WAS ALLEGEDLY SEIZED FROM A TRAIN BY CZECH AUTHORITIES AT THE CZECH-AUSTRIA BORDER ABOUT 1800 12 FEB. SKETCHY DESCRIPTION PROVIDED BY INFORMANT SEEMS TO FIT PAUL HOFFMAN, VIENNA-BASED CORRESPONDENT FOR NY TIMES WHO KNOWN TO HAVE FILED REPORTS FROM PRAGUE IN RECENT DAYS.

2. INFORMAT BELIEVED TO BE CZECH NATIONAL WHO DISEMBARKED TRAIN-- THE VINDOBONA EXPRESS, BERLIN-PRAGUE-VIENNA-- IN VIENNA AND RELATED INCIDENT TO VIENNA EMBASSY MARINE GUARD BY TELEPHONE. INFORMANT WOULD NOT GIVE IDENTITY. INFORMANT SIAD THAT SUBJECT CORRESPONDENT WAS LED AWAY BY CZECH AUTHORITIES FOR ABOUT 25 MINUTES WHILE TRAIN HALTED ON CZECH SIDE OF BORDER AND UPON BRIEF RETURN TO INFORMANT'S CABIN SAID REPEATEDLY: "I AM AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES. TELL THE AMERICAN EMBASSY." INFORMANT'S DESCRIPTION OF REPORTER -- 50 YEARS OLD, BLACK HAIR - FITS HOFFMAN.

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3. EMBASSY NOT ATTEMPTED TO INFORM NY TIMES OR HOFFMAN'S FAMILY WHO BELIEVED TO LIVE IN ITALY. MEEHAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** ALLEGED SEIZURE US CORRESPONDENT  
**TAGS:** CGEN  
**To:** STATE PRAGUE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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